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### Ex Parte

Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Application of Qwest Communications International, Inc. to Provide In-Region  
InterLATA Services in the States of Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Nebraska and North Dakota,  
WC Docket No. 02-148

Dear Commissioner Martin:

In June, Qwest submitted an application to the Federal Communications Commission to enter the long distance market in Iowa. I wish to express my support for greater competition in the telecommunications marketplace and for your consideration of Qwest's application.

One way to ensure that Iowa consumers benefit from the promises of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 is to open the long distance market and let all companies compete on a level playing field. The results in states that have already received approval for greater competition (such as New York, Texas, Missouri, and others) clearly demonstrate that consumers and small businesses benefit through savings and increased choice when an incumbent local exchange carrier is allowed to enter the long distance market.

I commend the collaborative efforts and extensive testing that have led to this application. The Iowa Utilities Board brought together all of the companies in Iowa to resolve problems, and worked with 12 other states to oversee extensive testing of the competitive environment. The IUB has reviewed Qwest's activities related to each of the 14 competitive points outlined in the Act and issued reports indicating that Qwest has indeed conditionally met those competitive points.

As is the case across our nation, telecommunications will play a vital role in Iowa's future. A study conducted by an MIT economist provides information demonstrating that Iowans will save \$58 million annually on long distance services once Qwest enters the long

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make greater competition, an

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